ALL NEW DC

MEN OF WAR

40¢

NO. 18
JULY

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CAN EVEN GRAVEDIGGER SURVIVE "the AMIENS ASSAULT"?

JOE KUBERT

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C-960

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HANDLER OF THE DEAD: A RATHER IGNOBLE POSITION FOR A MAN SOON TO BECOME LEGEND. BUT THEN, NO ONE EVER SAID THAT WAR IS LONG ON LOGIC. JUST ASK ULYSSES HAZARD, A MAN WHO HAD TO FIGHT NOT ONLY THE ENEMY--BUT HIS OWN COUNTRY--TO EARN THE...

CODE NAME: gravdigger

WILL THE EGYPTIAN SANDS CLAIM THE GRAVEDIGGER? OR SHALL DESTINY LET HIM LIVE TO MAKE--

THE AMIENS ASSAULT

BLAST! I WOULDN'T MIND FIGHTING THIS WAR IF WE HAD SOME PLACE FOR SOME COVER!

IT'S BLOODY *DANGEROUS* HERE, MATE! GERMAN PATROL ON OUR 'EELS AND US WITH NO TRANSPORTATION OUT OF 'ERE!

RATATATATAT

VIP VIP VIP VIP

J-5954

JACK C. HARRIS WRITER • DICK AYERS & ROMEO TANGHAL ARTISTS • BEN ODA LETTERER • JERRY SERPE COLORIST • PAUL LEVITZ EDITOR

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MAYBE THOSE GERMANS WERE *RIGHT*--THEY SAID OUR GOVERNMENTS WOULD *DESERT US* IF WE FAILED TO GET *DEFENSE PACKET SIX!*

WE *DIDN'T* FAIL--WE *DESTROYED* IT!

AND IF YOU LOOK *UP*, YOU'LL SEE WE *AIN'T* BEEN DESERTED!

MY SAINTED *MOTHER*--I DON'T BELIEVE MY *EYES!*

BELIEVE 'EM! THAT'S AN *AVRO LANCASTER*--A BRITISH HEAVY BOMBER DOING OUR DIRTY WORK FOR US!

THE HEAVENS PART--AND AN AIRCRAFT SCREAMS LOW ACROSS THE SANDS...

BROOOOMMM

SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE GIANT PLANE HAS SKIDDED TO A HALT...

HURRY IT *UP*, MATES--WE JUST GOT A *RADIO MESSAGE* TO HAUL YOU BACK HOME--

BUT WE HAVEN'T ALL DAY!

BAPBAPBAPBAPBAPBAPBAP

THANKS FOR LAYING THAT *BOMB* ON OUR PLAYMATES, PAL--BUT IT LOOKS AS IF YOU *MISSED* A FEW OF 'EM!

YOU MUST BE THE *YANK*--CAPTAIN *HAZARD!* WORD HAS IT YOU *CAPTURED* DEFENSE PACKET SIX--THE SECRET PAPERS THAT HAVE *ALL* THE GERMAN PLANS FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE FRENCH COAST.

LOOKS AS IF "*THE WORD*" IS A MIGHT *MISINFORMED!*

THE ROAR OF THE TWIN MERLIN ENGINES DROWNS OUT THE FRANTIC GERMAN PATROL LEFT BEHIND ON THE SANDS AS THE GRAVEDIGGER REVEALS HOW HIS MISSION HAS BOTH SUCCEEDED--*AND* FAILED!

SEEMS WE *DID* GET THE PACKET--BUT NOT BEFORE IT TOOK A *DIP* IN THE *NILE RIVER!*

WHAT WAS *LEFT* WAS AN *UNREADABLE MESS!*

HOURS LATER... AS THE AIRCRAFT LANDS AT A HEAVILY-GUARDED AIRFIELD OUTSIDE WARTORN LONDON...

NOW HOW DO YOU THINK OUR COMMANDING OFFICER, *MAJOR BIRCH*, IS GOING TO TAKE THIS NEWS, MATE?

I DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT *BIRCH* THINKS--I'M WONDERING HOW MY GOOD "*FRIEND*," THE *U.S. UNDERSECRETARY OF WAR*, IS GOING TO TAKE OUR LITTLE "SUCCESSFUL FAILURE"!

NOT FAR AWAY--IN THE SECRET WAR ROOM BENEATH THE RUBBLED STREETS OF SHATTERED LONDON...

I TELL YOU, MAJOR--I'LL USE MY AUTHORITY AS UNDERSECRETARY OF WAR TO SEE ULYSSES HAZARD *SHOT!*

CALM DOWN, MR. UNDERSECRETARY --GRAVEDIGGER *DID* DESTROY THE DEFENSE PACKET--!

IT NEVER REACHED BERLIN!

GRAVEDIGGER!

I KNOW... I KNOW... BUT WE *NEED* THAT INFORMATION, AND HE DIDN'T DELIVER IT!

AIN'T IT A PITY I'M STILL ALIVE AND KICKING?

REPORTS SAY YOU DID A FANTASTIC JOB--UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES!

ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN -- I MUST ADMIT YOU HAVE SURPASSED MY EXPECTATIONS...

WELL NOW, THAT IS INDEED HIGH PRAISE COMING FROM YOU... *SIR!*

CONGRATULATIONS WERE IN THE ORDER -- AND THEY WERE *GIVEN!*

IT IS TIME FOR YOUR BRIEFING ON YOUR *NEXT MISSION!*

NEXT MISSION!? I FIGGER ME AND THE BOYS HERE HAVE SOME *LEAVE TIME* ALL SAVED UP!

INDEED -- AND AS SOON AS TIME *PERMITS*, YOU SHALL HAVE IT! BUT NOW...

...I SUGGEST YOU BID FAREWELL TO YOUR COMRADES --

FOR THIS MISSION IS *YOURS ALONE*, CAPTAIN!

AND AFTER THE BRIEF GOOD-BYE AND MERE MINUTES OF REST...

LISTEN CLOSELY, CAPTAIN. BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OVER -- YOU SHALL BE DEEP IN *ENEMY-OCCUPIED FRANCE*...

ON A MISSION THAT HAS THE OUTCOME OF THE *WORLD* IN ITS BALANCE!

FRANCE

Paris

4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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Every stick has wild, colorful fruity stripes.

Find:	Check:
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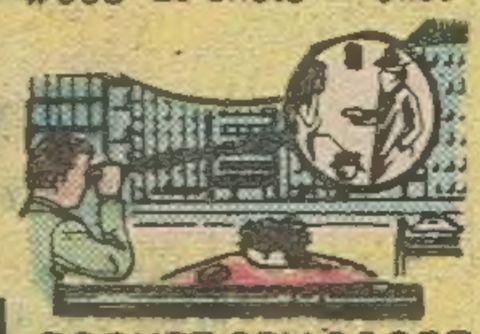

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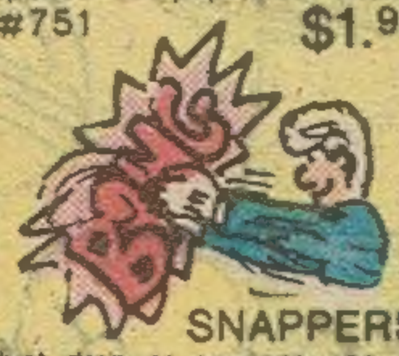

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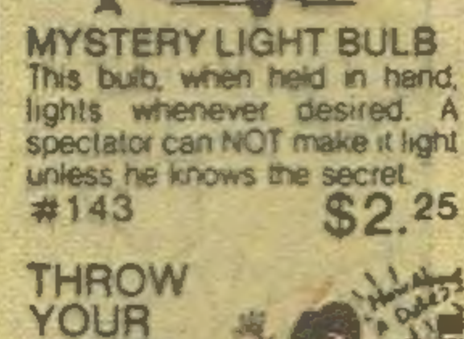

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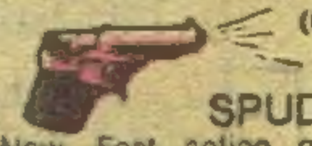

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AT THAT INSTANT... IN BERLIN, A NAZI MINISTER OF PROPAGANDA CONFERS WITH A LEARNED SCIENTIST...

AH, HERR GOEBBELS-- YOU SEE THE *PRODUCT* OF MY THEORIES...?

YES, HERR DOCTOR--AND IT IS TRULY AS AMAZING AS YOU CLAIMED. IT WILL MEAN THE *DOWNFALL* OF THE COMMANDO KNOWN AS GRAVEDIGGER!

HERR GOEBBELS-- A *COMMUNICATION* FROM YOUR OPERATIVE!

AH, WHAT IS THIS? IT SEEMS AS IF OUR FRIEND GRAVEDIGGER IS HEADED FOR *FRANCE!*

IT APPEARS WE CAN UTILIZE YOUR... *PROJECT* A BIT SOONER THAN ANTICIPATED, HERR DOCTOR.

THIS IS *GOOD*... VERY GOOD...

BUT WE SHALL HAVE TO *WAIT* TO SEE THE FRUIT OF GOEBBELS' PLANS... FOR NOW, WE MUST *RETURN* TO THE BRITISH WAR ROOM...

YOU NEEDN'T KNOW *ALL* THE DETAILS, CAPTAIN--BUT IT'S WIDELY KNOWN THAT BOTH THE AMERICANS AND THE GERMANS ARE DEVELOPING *HEAVY WATER*--

THAT SCIENTIFIC STUFF IS WAY OVER MY HEAD, MAJOR-- LET'S JUST HEAR ABOUT THE MISSION!

VERY WELL--THIS IS *MONSIEUR NOIR*--A FRENCHMAN WHOSE WORK IN THE ATOMIC FIELD IS *VITAL* TO THE U.S. ATOMIC EFFORTS!

OKAY, I GET YOU! TELL ME WHERE HE IS--AND I'LL BRING HIM *BACK!*

FOR THE NEXT FOURTEEN HOURS, ULYSSES HAZARD IS BRIEFED -- *MEMORIZING* THE *LOCATION* OF THE CAPTIVE FRENCH SCIENTIST... LEARNING *UNDER-WATER TACTICS* IN A HASTILY-TAUGHT COURSE IN *SCUBA DIVING*...

FRANCE

...AND AS *NIGHT* CREEPS OVER THE ENGLISH CHANNEL...

YOU REMEMBER YOUR *INSTRUCTIONS*, CAPTAIN?

OH YEAH! I'M DRESSED LIKE A *FROG* AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SUBMARINED TO THE RIVER *SOMME* AND THEN TO A *RED CROSS UNIT* IN *AMIENS*...

THEN I'M SUPPOSED TO SNATCH THIS *NOIR* GUY AND HIGHTAIL IT BACK HERE LIKITY-SPLIT!

IF I DON'T GET ME AND HIM AND EVERYONE IN BETWEEN *KILLED* FIRST!

EXCELLENT! I SHALL EXPECT YOU BACK IN *48 HOURS!*

I'M NOT TOO *COMFORTABLE* ABOUT THIS ONE! THOSE GERMANS KEEP *EAGLE-EYES* OFF THE COAST OF FRANCE. HOW'RE THESE SUB BOYS GOING TO GET ME CLOSE ENOUGH WITHOUT BEING *SPOTTED?*

AFTER A FEW SHORT HOURS... GRAVEDIGGER'S UNASKED QUESTION IS *ANSWERED*...

INTO THE *TORPEDO TUBE!?* YOU'RE *CRAZY*, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING SO, SIR!

SORRY, CAPTAIN! THAT'S HOW YOU'RE *SUPPOSED* TO GO-- AND THAT'S HOW YOU'RE *GOING!*

SHOT TOWARD FRANCE IN A TORPEDO TUBE? MY MOMMA *NEVER* TOLD ME THERE'D BE DAYS LIKE...

...*THIS!*

FFFFFWWHHHOOOSSHHH

AS DAWN APPROACHES ON THE SHORES OF OCCUPIED FRANCE...

WHEW!

ARMS LIKE *LEAD*! BUT I *MADE IT*! JUST IN TIME TOO. THEY WERE NONE TOO GENEROUS WITH THE *AIR* IN THIS TANK!

ARRÊTE!

FROZEN FOR A SPLIT SECOND-- GRAVEDIGGER REMEMBERS HIS DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS...

FRENCH UNDERGROUND! THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET *ME* AND HELP ME--IF I REMEMBER THE *PASSWORD--!*

*FOSSOVEUR**!

FOSSOVEUR-- HE IS THE ONE!

WHAT GOOD IS *THIS* COMMANDO? HOW CAN WE SMUGGLE A *BLACK* INTO THE HOSPITAL AT AMIENS?

HAVE *FAITH*, YOU GUYS-- AIN'T YOU EVER SEEN BORIS KARLOFF AS THE *MUMMY*?

GOT SOME BANDAGES IN THIS MEAT WAGON?

A DAY AND A HALF OF TRAVELING AND THE SUN AGAIN SETS OVER THE CONQUERED COUNTRYSIDE...

WE ARE *HERE*, GRAVEDIGGER-- YOU ARE READY?

AS READY AS I'LL *EVER* BE, FRENCHIE!

*THE FRENCH-- FOR *GRAVEDIGGER*! --PAUL

AS THE NAZI GUARD LEANS CLOSER TO INSPECT...

BRIEFING TOLD ME THAT THIS PLACE ONLY HAS A *FEW GUARDS*--THEY DON'T WANT TO ATTRACT *ATTENTION*...

TAKE A *CLOSER* LOOK, NAZI!

POW!

UNNGH!

THAT SHOT'LL BRING 'EM *RUNNING*. I'M HOPING I HAVE TIME TO LOCATE NOIR BEFORE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE!

I'VE *MEMORIZED* THE LAYOUT OF THIS HOSPITAL FROM INTELLIGENCE REPORTS--AND I HOPE MY MEMORY HOLDS UP!

ROOM 7! THAT'S IT--I *HOPE*!

7

DOCTOR NOIR!

INFIRMIERE--CALMEZ!

DON'T WASTE YOUR BROKEN FRENCH ON ON *HER*--SHE'S A *NAZI*!

8

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

ADVERTISEMENT

SUPERMAN MEETS THE ORBITRONS!

SOMEWHERE IN THE OUTERMOST GALAXY.

THE PLANET ORBITRON NOT ONLY PLUNDERS OUR GOLD OPERATIONS WITH MAGNETIC RAYS, SUPERMAN, THEY'VE KIDNAPPED OUR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS.

AN AFFINITY FOR GOLD! I THOUGHT THAT WAS A HUMAN TRAIT... BUT IT GIVES ME AN IDEA!

HOLY KRYPTON! I'M BEING PULLED BY SOME SORT OF MAGNETIC RAY... SOMETHING'S SENSED MY GOLDEN CARGO.

PRODUCE YOUR GOLD, EARTHLING, AND YOU COME TO NO HARM.

THE GOLD I BRING IS WHAT EARTHMEN CALL *HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES.*

INDEED, THESE GOLDEN BARS HAVE A DEFINITE DELIGHTFUL SENSATION. THEY ARE SOFT...

A *CREAMED FILLING,* TOO.

KNOWN TO US AS *GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE.*

SUPERIOR TO THE GOLD METAL WE HAVE BEEN ATTRACTING.

SOMETIME LATER:

IT IS AGREED. WE RELEASE YOUR SCIENTISTS. AND EARTH AGREES TO DELIVER *HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES* TO US ON A REGULAR BASIS.

SMART THINKING, SUPERMAN, BRINGING THE ORBITRONS THE *GOLDEN GOODNESS* OF *HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES.*

EVEN SMARTER - SAVING SOME FOR US! *DELICIOUS.*

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE of HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES.!

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THIS IS THE ONE!

THIS IS THE ISSUE WHERE THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE COME TOGETHER -- AND EXPLODE!!!

The FASTEST MAN ALIVE!
FLASH
40c
ALL NEW!
ZAP! YOU'RE DEAD!
You are cordially invited to attend THE LAST DANCE and witness the DEATH of

DON'T MISS IT! ON SALE EVERYWHERE JULY 12TH!

I AM ASSUMING THAT YOU WERE SENT TO *REMOVE ME* FROM THIS HOLE, MY FRIEND...

THAT'S RIGHT, BUT I'M A BIT FOGGY ON HOW TO *DO* IT...

THAT SHOT I FIRED A FEW MINUTES AGO WILL HAVE THIS PLACE SWARMING WITH NAZIS IN SECONDS...

TROMP TROMP WHAM

RUNNING *FOOTSTEPS*--SOUNDS LIKE A WHOLE GERMAN *BATTALION!*

THIS *IS* A HOSPITAL, BUT I AM ONLY BEING HELD AS A *PRISONER*...

IF THEY KNOW A *COMMANDO* IS HERE--THEY WILL SURELY GUESS IT IS *I* HE IS AFTER!

HURRY! THERE IS LITTLE TIME!

WE'RE ON THE FIRST FLOOR--*MAYBE* THEY WON'T FIGGER WE'LL *GO UP!*

I'LL *MAKE US* SOME TIME--BY CREATING A *DIVERSION!*

WE HEARD THAT SHOT AND FIND THE HOSPITAL *UNGUARDED--!*

AND THE ONLY THING OF IMPORTANCE HERE IS *DOCTOR NOIR!*

THE SOUNDS OF HEAVILY-BOOTED RUNNING FEET HALT MOMENTARILY AS A GUTTURAL VOICE CRACKLES FORTH...

THERE! HE WAS RIGHT *THERE,* SERGEANT...

WHO?

WHAT DID YOU *SEE,* OLD MAN?

I SAW HIM-- HE WAS WRAPPED FROM HEAD TO TOE IN *BANDAGES*-- AND HE HAD A *GUN!* HE WAS NO PATIENT, NO, THAT IS SURELY A FACT...

HE IS *RAMBLING*-- A CRAZY OLD MAN!

NO! LOOK!

UNNN...

HALT!

ONE BEAT... TWO... AND THE GERMAN GUNS ISSUE FORTH-- *DEATH!*

KA-POW

KA-POW

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

CONCLUDED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

Pete Rose BATTING PRACTICE

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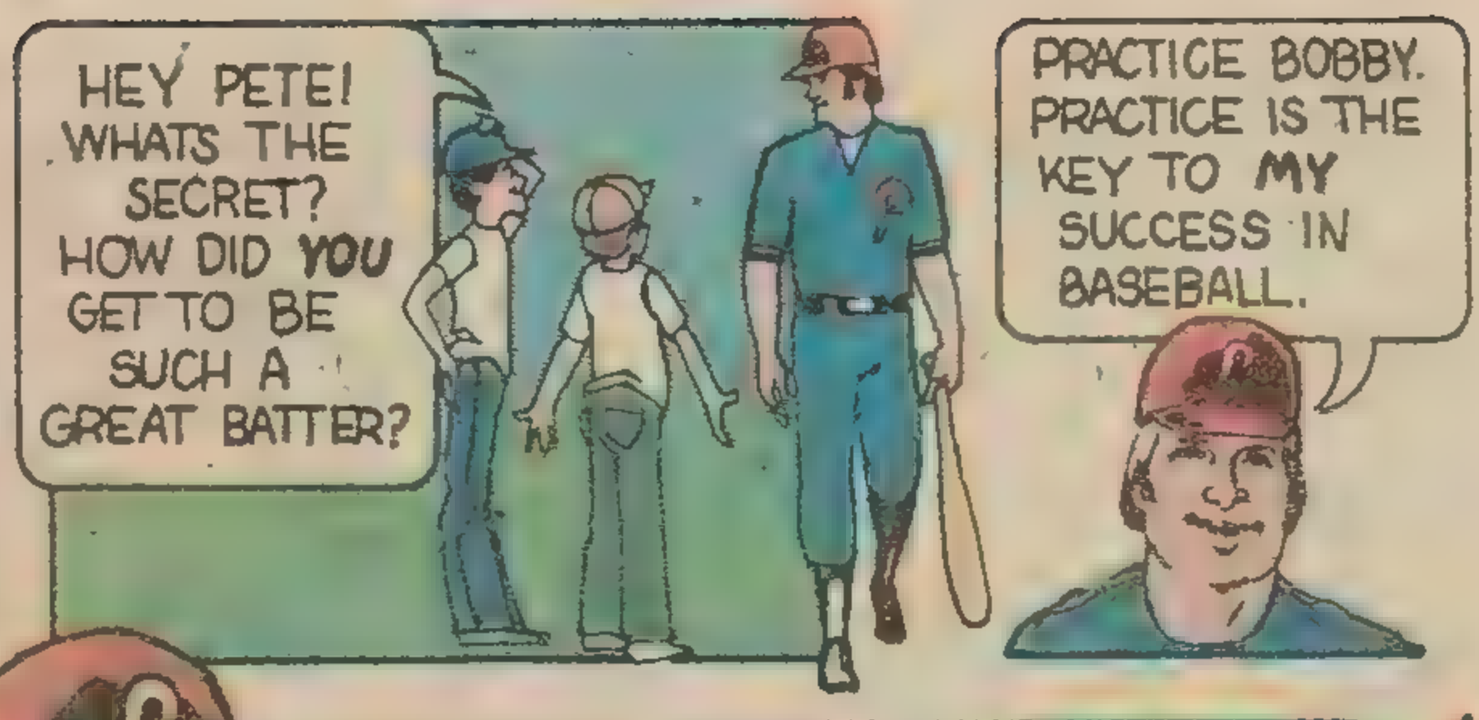
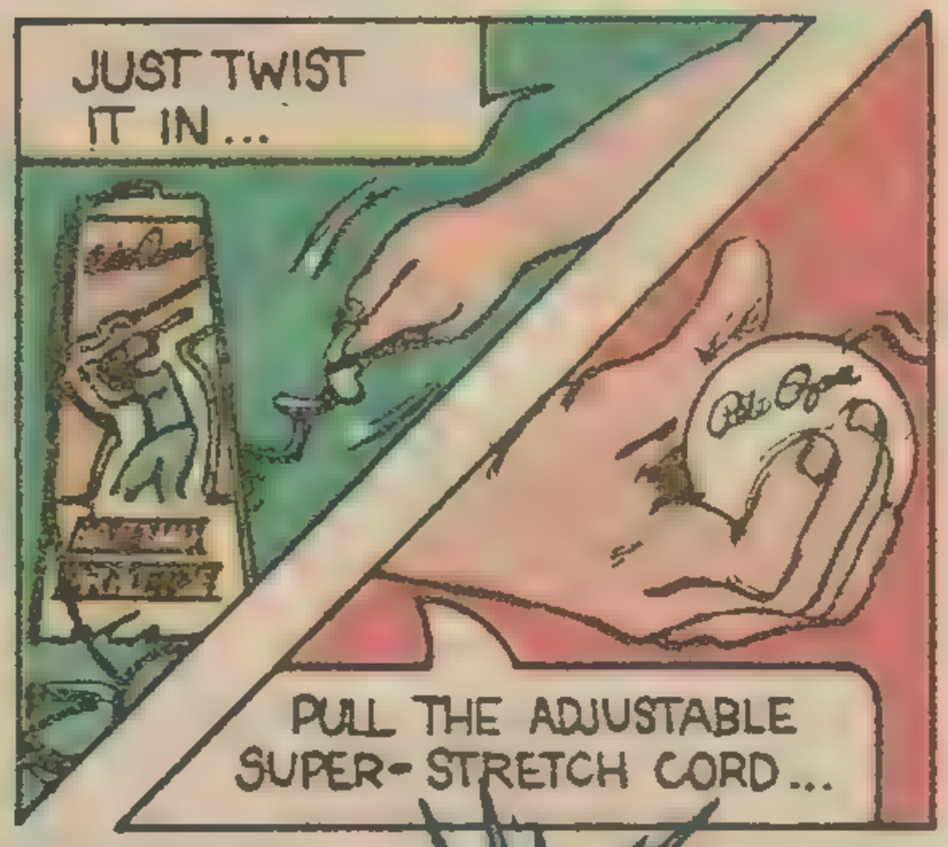
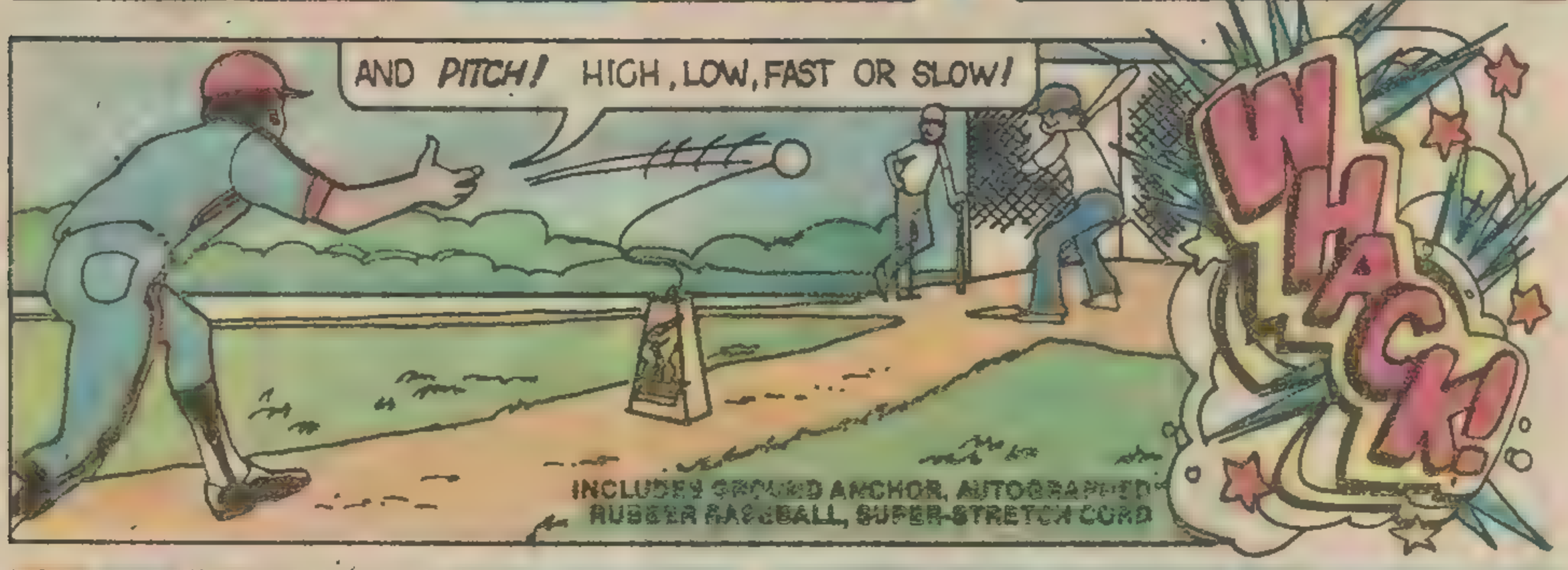
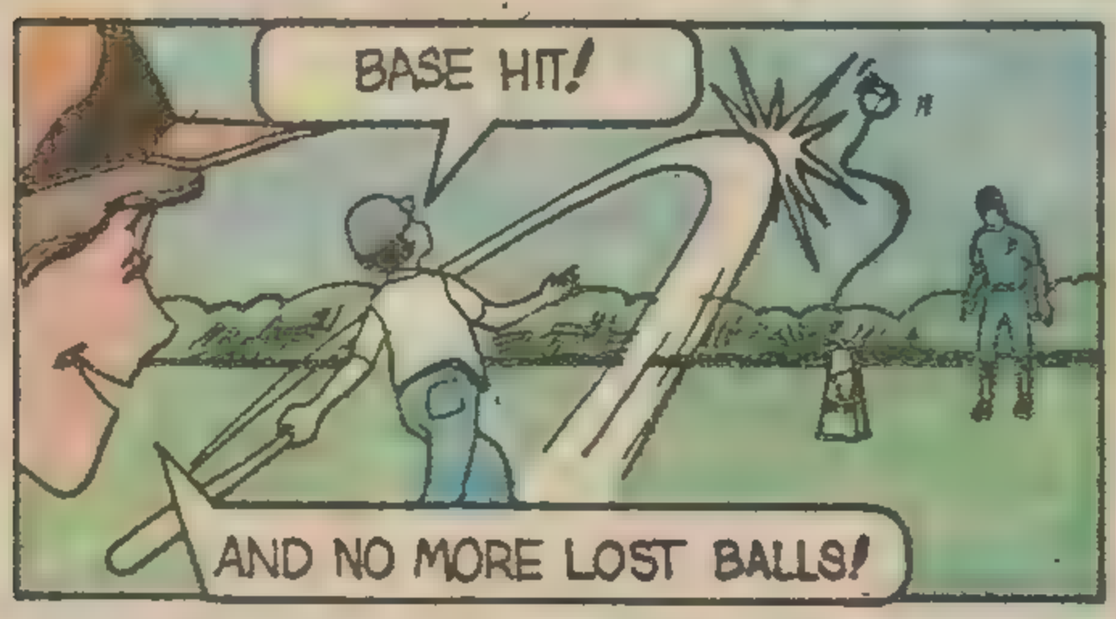
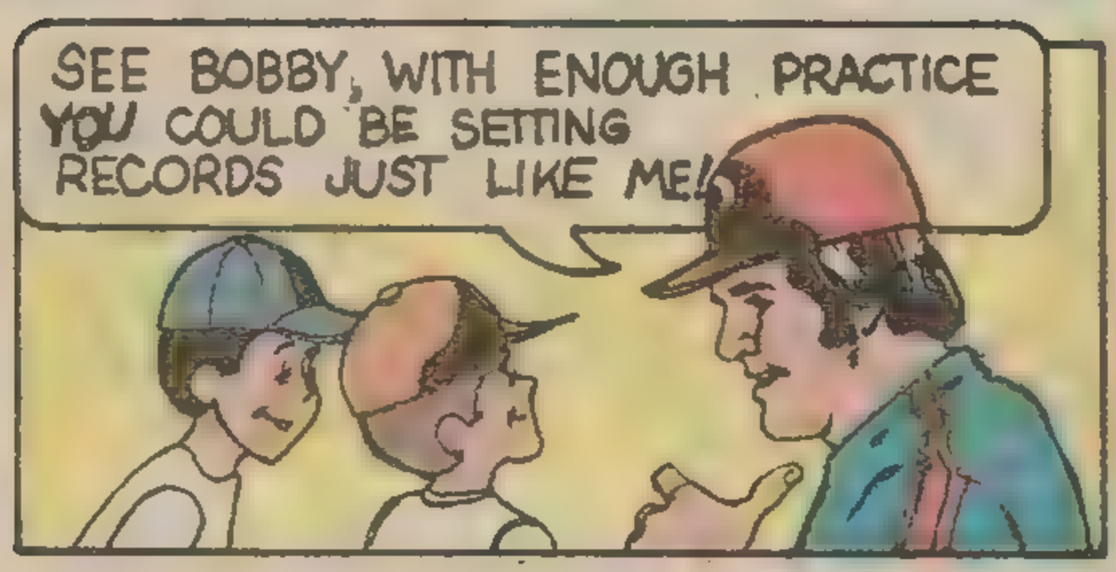

HEY PETE! WHATS THE SECRET? HOW DID YOU GET TO BE SUCH A GREAT BATTER?
PRACTICE BOBBY. PRACTICE IS THE KEY TO MY SUCCESS IN BASEBALL.









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THE THEFT OF AN ENTIRE CITY... THE DESTRUCTION OF A SMALL WORLD... AND **THE BIRTH OF SUPERMAN!**

IN THE PAST, SUPERMAN MEETS HIS FATHER, JOR-EL, ON THE...
WORLD OF KRYPTON
NO. 2
AUG.
BRAINIAC IS STEALING THE CITY OF KANDOR... AND WITH IT OUR ONLY HOPE OF SAVING THE PEOPLE OF KRYPTON!

ON SALE MAY 10th

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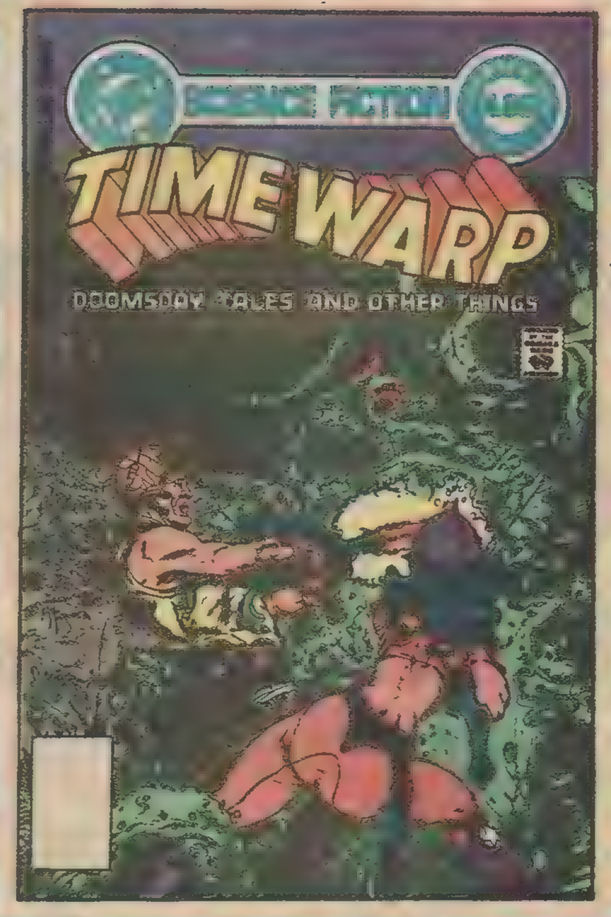

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ACH!

A--A WOMAN!

NOT JUST A WOMAN! IT IS *INGA*-- THE NURSE ASSIGNED TO *GUARD DOCTOR NOIR!*

QUICK! CHECK THE ROOM!

KRASH

EMPTY! HOW!? HOW!?

AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM *OUTSIDE!*

AND OUTSIDE...

WE'LL STAY PUT FOR A BIT, DOC-- AND WHEN THEY START SCOURING THE COUNTRYSIDE, WE'LL HIGHTAIL IT *OUT* OF HERE!

IF WE LIVE THAT LONG...

YEAH... IF WE LIVE THAT LONG...

!!!

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BATTLE LINES

L-275

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Dear Editor.

After reading #13, I can't help but think again that you have your priorities reversed. Though featured every issue, Gravedigger seems to me to be the least appealing of the three series that regularly appear in this book. Perhaps it's because I don't find his "secret missions" at all plausible. I feel that the aura of reality is essential to war stories since they deal with historical facts of tragic importance. Early on in this series, while it always lacked such realism, at least it had the redeeming feature of the uniqueness of Gravedigger's personality. Lately he has become just a standard war hero, and the stories have suffered.

On the other hand, Enemy Ace continues to be the most interesting of the *MEN OF WAR* features. It has three elements that no other regular *DC* war series has: a World War I setting, a non-Allied (indeed non-American) "hero", and the air force as the central branch of the service. In addition, Hans von Hammer *is* a unique character, with his peculiar code of ethics. While the storyline which was continued in "The Last Baron" is not one of his better ones, at least it is different from the norm.

Lastly, we have the alternating backup feature, Dateline: Frontline. Again, this series is more desirable than Gravedigger because it has an aspect (the press) not usually seen.

Thus, if I had my way, I'd like to see either Enemy Ace or Dateline: Frontline as the lead feature. Perhaps a rotating lead feature is the answer. (I realize that I'm probably fighting a losing battle since Enemy Ace, for one, has been "proven" to lack wide appeal.)

Unsigned

Interesting thesis...and to tell the truth, we were kind of hoping to occasionally give Enemy Ace or our as-of-then-unplanned other features a shot at the cover when we started this magazine. Fortunately or unfortunately, though, Gravedigger has taken off quite nicely and become a solid title, which means we have to be more careful about alienating our existing audience in favor of pleasing an unknown other audience.—PL.

* * * * *

Dear Paul,

I'm glad to see that Gravedigger is finally getting somewhere as far as some sort of actual continuity is concerned. Jack C. Harris wrote the best Gravedigger since Michelinie in #12, and I hope he stays around. I don't believe Michelinie ever had a chance to get a storyline moving and I admire McKenzie for trying, but believe his talent is not best suited for war comics. Actually, I'm surprised that *MEN OF WAR* survived the recent reduction in the DC line.

As to a furlough for Dateline:Frontline or Enemy Ace, give Frontline one. It isn't bad, but I like Enemy Ace better. And whatever happened to the Chaykin Blackhawk and the rumored Captain Fear series?

Gary Norman
1125 9th Ave.
Laurel, Miss. 39440

Whenever we can get Wein and Chaykin in the same room, at the same time, and with the same convenient gap in their schedules, you'll see Blackhawk. But we wouldn't dare predict when that might happen...any more than we would forecast when Walt Simonson will finish the art on a three-part Captain Fear tale scripted by David Michelinie that has been half-completed for over a year now. The reason why we can get these special stories for the back of MOW *is the deadline-less world of rotating back-ups, and that same advantage is a disadvantage when it comes to planning for specific features in specific issues. We will say this, though—as soon as either feature is completed, you'll see it in print here or in UNKNOWN SOLDIER.—PL.*

* * * * *

Dear Paul,

Just one question, a short and silly one: wasn't the design of the cover of #13 awfully similar to #12?

John Elliot
393 East 58 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11203

Aha! At least one sharp-eyed reader caught us. Actually, #13's cover was even more similar to #12's before we flopped it, moving Gravedigger to the left hand side of the page rather than the right. Sorry about the confusion, but editors get forgetful sometimes.—PL.

* * * * *

Dear Paul,

Over the past few issues I've noticed a similarity between the letters in Battle Lines. Either the same readers are commenting all the time, or readers with similar interests, or there's just not enough to say about *MEN OF WAR*.

In my case, the last of those is true. I enjoy *MEN OF WAR*, and the Gravedigger series, but there's nothing unique about any given story or storyline that impells me to write. And there's nothing in the letter column that attracts my attention, either.

But rather than just complain, I have a suggestion to make. Why don't you stop running a letter column, or at least only run one in months when someone has something to say, and run a feature page the rest of the time? There are lots of interesting facts about World War Two or other periods in history that readers of *MEN OF WAR* would be interested in. Why not try that for a change?

Fred Williams
721 Broadway
Sacramento, CA

Seems like a reasonable idea to us, but we wonder how your fellow readers would feel about losing their forum. What about it, folks? Should we give Battle Lines a furlough—occasionally or permanently?—PL.

* * * * *

NEXT MONTH: A new Enemy Ace series begins, courtesy of Kanigher and Chaykin, and Gravedigger gets involved with a familar member of the DC Battle Star Galaxy—Mlle. Marie of the Maquis. Be here—Paul Levitz.

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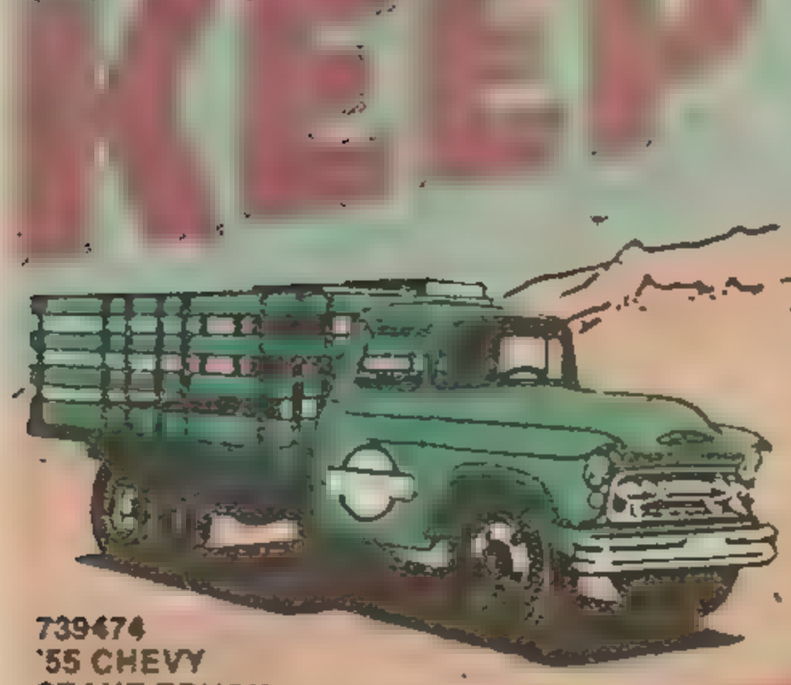

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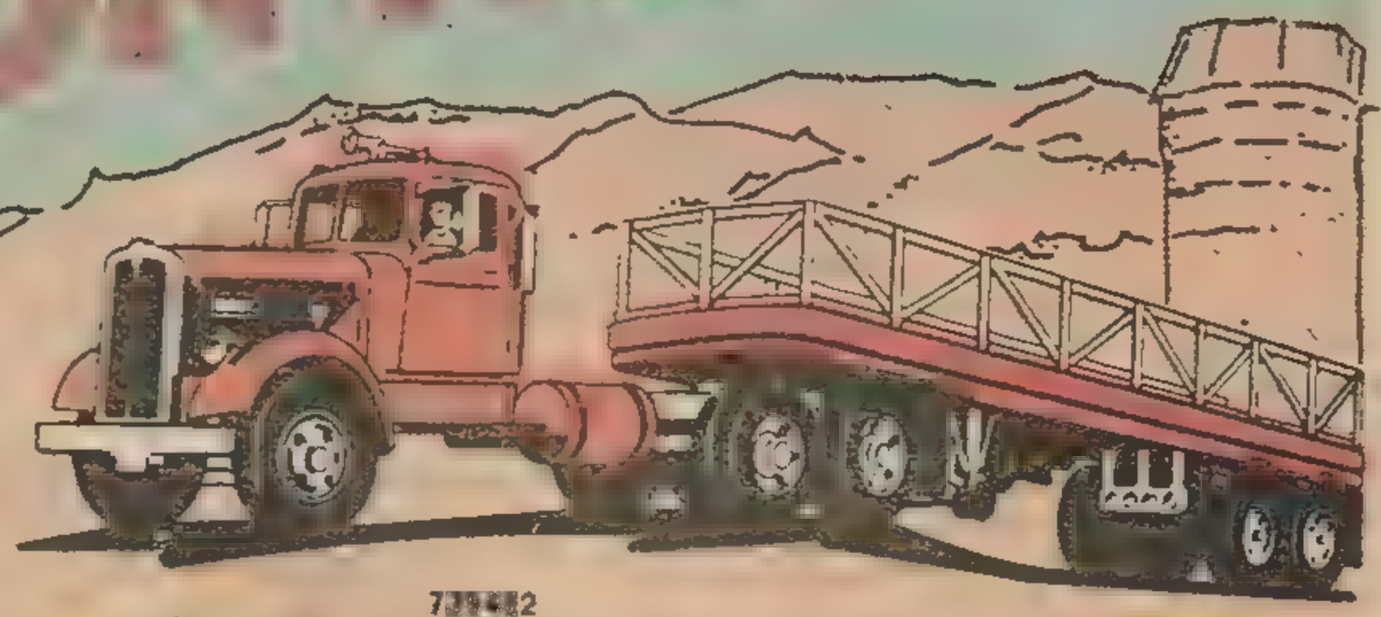

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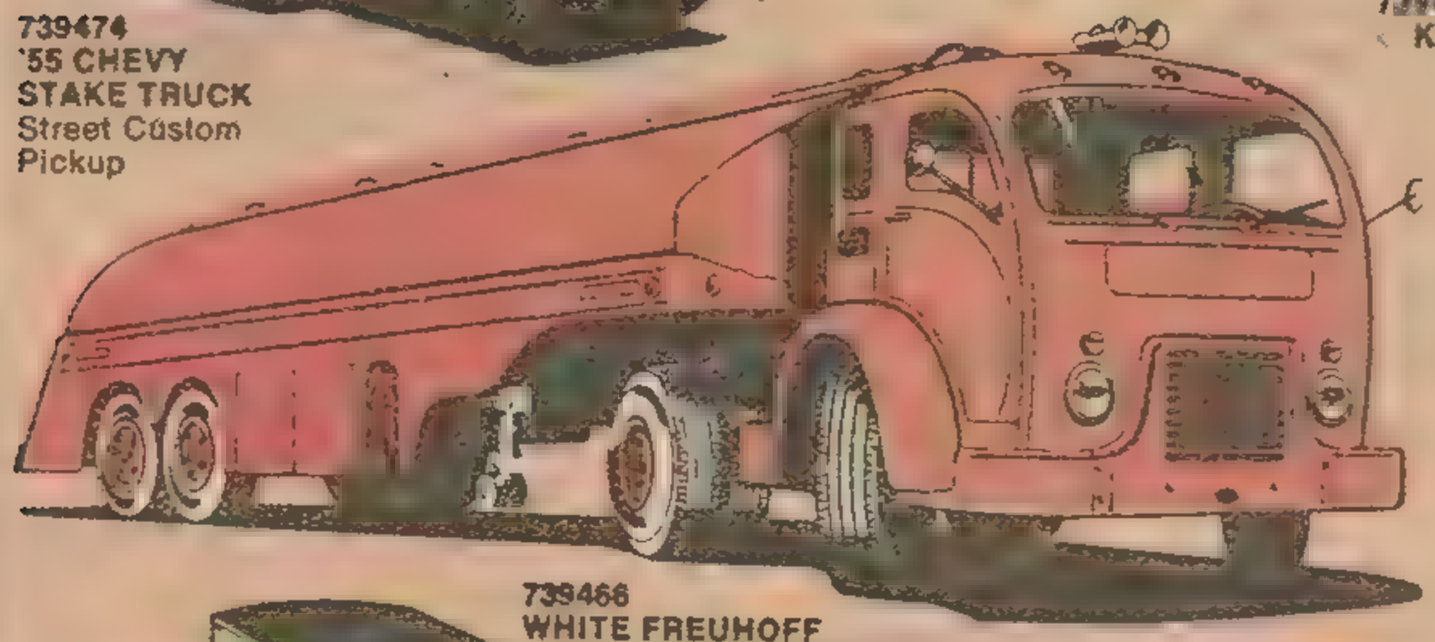

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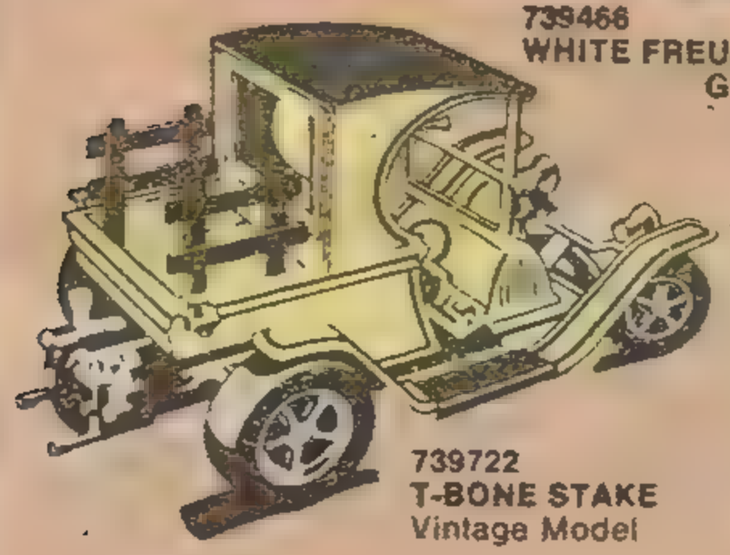

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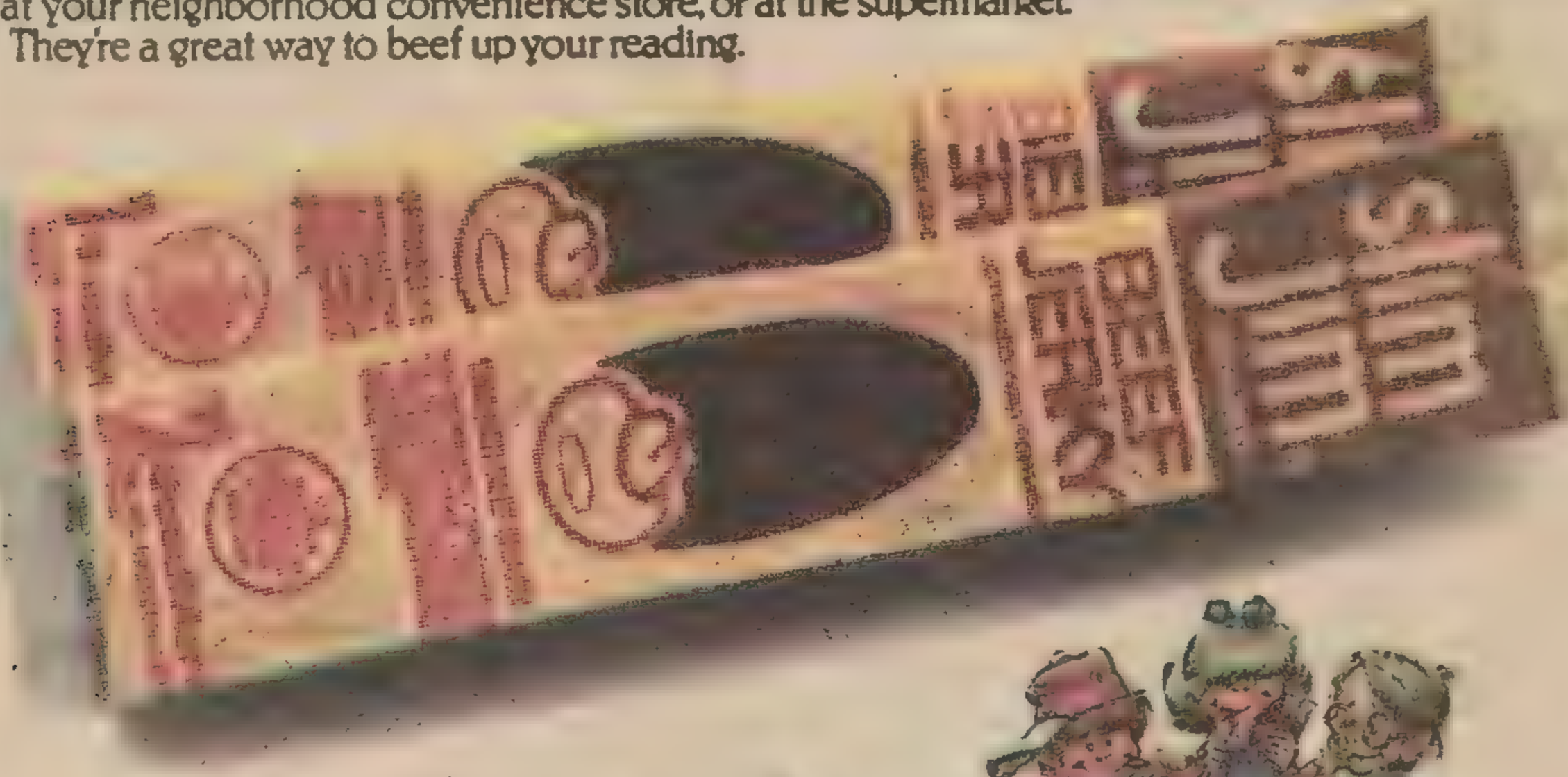

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BERLIN, GERMANY. JANUARY 9, 1870:

ALONE THESE PAST *TWO DAYS* IN THE *DUNGEON* BENEATH *CASTLE RHINEHART*, THIS MAN HAS SAT SILENT...*UNMOVING*...

FOR HE KNOWS THE *WAY*... *SOFTENING* THE PRISONER THROUGH FEAR AND *APPREHENSION*--MAKING HIM AWAIT HIS *FATE* IN DANK *SOLITUDE*...

BUT THIS MAN *KNOWS*--AND THERE IS *LITTLE* ON THIS EARTH HE FEARS...FOR HE IS *ROSA!*

MEIN HERR...?

IN THE LATTER PART OF THE *19TH CENTURY*, EUROPE WAS *TORN* BY WAR AND *REVOLUTION*... AND ONE MAN *FOUGHT* IN THE *SHADOW* OF THESE *UPHEAVALS*, A MAN WHOSE *TRUE* NAME WAS *UNKNOWN*--THE *MASTER-SPY* CALLED...

ROSA

MASTER-SPY

AS IF IN A SINGLE, *FLUID MOTION*, STEEL *MANACLES* FALL FROM ROSA'S WRISTS AND THE MASTER-SPY *THROWS* HIMSELF UPON ONE OF THOSE WHO HAVE KEPT HIM *IMPRISONED*...

MEIN HERR, I HAVE COME TO...

GOTT!

THE CASTLE RHINEHART AFFAIR

-PART TWO-

PAUL KUPPERBERG: WRITER JERRY GRANDENETTI: ARTIST
TODD KLEIN: LETTERER JERRY SERPE: COLORIST PAUL LEVITZ: EDITOR

...TO PERHAPS *GLOAT* OVER YOUR PRISONER, SEÑORITA?

NO, NO, MY DEAR-- I WOULD STRONGLY *ADVISE* YOU *NOT* TO MAKE ANY LOUD NOISES! ¿COMPRENDÉ?

B-BUT THE *MANACLES!?* HOW DID YOU *UNLOCK...?*

WITH *THIS*, FRAULEIN-- ONE OF *MANY* SUCH USEFUL ITEMS I SAW FIT TO BRING WITH ME--

--HERE!

BARON RHINEHART DID NOT THINK TO *SEARCH* ME BEFORE IMPRISONING ME--NOR WOULD HE HAVE FOUND THIS HAD HE LOOKED!

W-WHAT MANNER OF MAN *ARE YOU!?*

I AM A *SPY*, MADEMOISELLE. I AM NOT PAID TO BE CAUGHT *UNPREPARED!*

THEN...YOU *ARE NOT* IN THE EMPLOY OF THE BARON!?

NYET, FRAULEIN! ELSE I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IM-PRISONED!

SILENCE NOW, MLLÉ! IT WOULD *GRIEVE* ME TO HAVE TO EMPLOY *FORCE* AGAINST ONE *SO LOVELY* AS YOU!

YOU DO NOT *UNDERSTAND*, MEIN HERR! I CAN *GUESS* YOU WERE SENT BY THE *FRENCH* TO SPY ON THE BARON*--

*LAST ISSUE.--PAUL

SANTA MARÍA! THEN WE MUST *TALK*, FRAULEIN... BUT *FIRST*--

--JUST AS THE FRENCH *WAR DE-PARTMENT* SENT *ME!*

--I MUST HAVE A SWORD!

ACH DU LIEBER!

AND SINCE YOURS IS THE ONLY ONE HANDY, MEIN FREUND--

-- I SUPPOSE --

-- IT WILL HAVE--

OOOFFF!

WHUMP!

--TO DO!

KRAK!

MERCÍ, SEÑOR SOLDIER!

BITTE, MEIN HERR... WE DARE NOT STAY HERE ANY LONGER--THE BARON WILL BE DOWN ANY MOMENT!

DA. LET US GO, MA'AM.

THROUGH THE LABYRINTH BENEATH THE ANCIENT FORTRESS, GERDA VON STASSEN LEADS THE MASTER-SPY TO...

...THE EXIT, HERR ROSA! YOU CAN ESCAPE THE BARON THROUGH THE FOREST...

: ESCAPE? WHY WOULD THE BARON'S FRAULEIN WISH TO AID IN MY ESCAPE?

NEIN! YOU DO NOT UNDER-STAND--

AS I SAID, I TOO WAS SENT BY THE FRENCH WAR DEPARTMENT. ALONG WITH CORPORAL HIMMEL-- THE MAN YOU IMPERSONATED-- WE WERE TRYING TO TRACE THE SOURCE OF THE SECURITY LEAK OF FRENCH WAR PLANS!

THE LAST ROSA SAW OF *FREEDOM*, THE *STARS* SHONE BRIGHT IN THE NIGHT SKY, BUT *THIS* NIGHT BLACK CLOUDS HANG OVER THE SKY *DARKLY*--*FOREBODINGLY*.

*ALLIES DO NOT ATTACK ALLIES, MLLE.**

*ALSO LAST ISSUE.--PAUL

CORPORAL HIMMEL WAS MY *COLLEAGUE*, HERR ROSA. WHEN I REALIZED YOU WERE AN *IMPOSTOR*, I THOUGHT THE BARON HAD FOUND US OUT AND WAS TRYING TO *TRICK* ME.

WAIT! YOU ARE NOT GOING BACK?

VUS DEN, MON COMRADE? THE MISSION IS STILL *UNFINISHED*--

--WHILE BARON RHINEHART STILL *BREATHES!* AU REVOIR!

AND WITH THAT, THE *MAN OF THE SHADOWS* IS *GONE*--*BACK* INTO THE STENCH OF *FOUR CENTURIES* OF *DEATH*--

--BACK TO ADD YET *ANOTHER* SOUL TO THE *BLOODY TALLY* OF CASTLE *RHINEHART*...

MOMENTS LATER, IN *BARON RHINEHART'S* STUDY...

HIMMEL! THIS NEW INFORMATION FROM HERR B IN PARIS...I MUST RELAY IT TO CHANCELLOR BISMARCK IMMEDIATELY!

NYET, SEÑOR BARON--

--I THINK *NOT!*

GOTT--THE PRISONER--ESCAPED!?

SÍ... AND NOW I HAVE COME TO KILL YOU, MONSIEUR!

AS YOU SAY, MEIN HERR--

--I THINK NOT!

KA-POW! POW!

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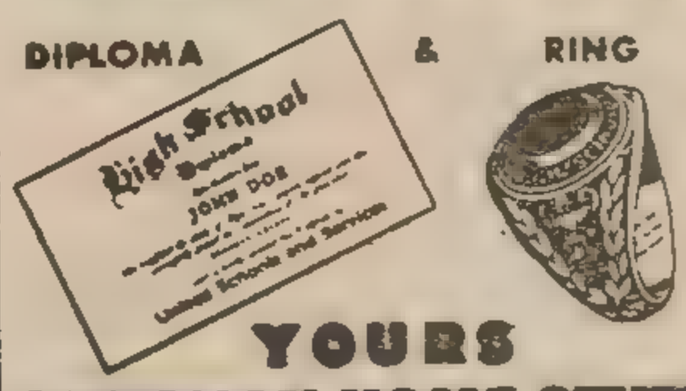

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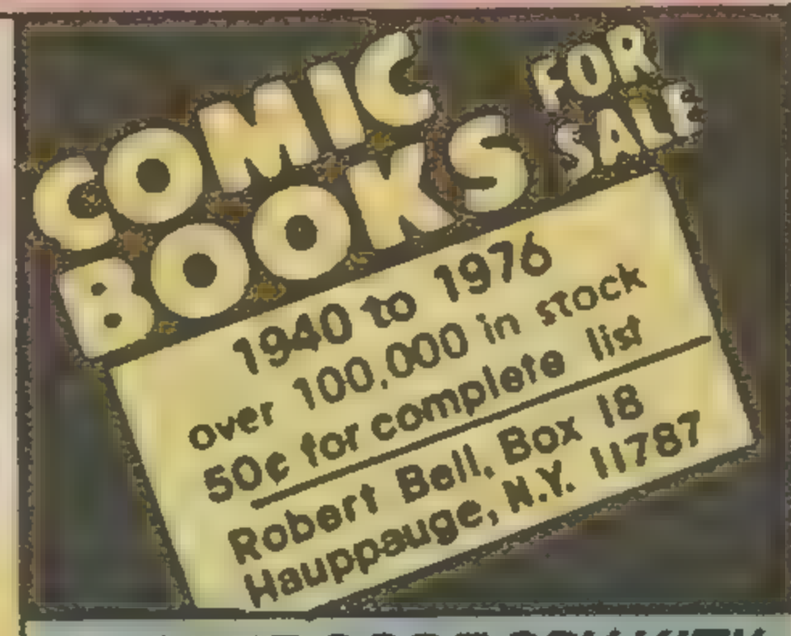

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STEADY, GUV'NOR--

--IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE HEART TO GET SO EXCITED!

ARROGANT SWINE-HUND! YOUR LITTLE TRICK WAS CLEVER... UNFORTUNATELY--

-- I STILL HAVE ONE MORE BULLET!

BANG!

KER-CRASH!

SÍ--

--AND NOW YOU HAVE NONE! MAY I SUGGEST SOMETHING IN A SWORD, MONSIEUR!

GOOT GOTT! H-HOW DO YOU...?

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF, MEIN HERR... I AM THE MAN THEY CALL ROSA! PERHAPS YOU HAVE HEARD OF ME?

JA--I HAVE, MEIN HERR --AS HAVE PRUSSIA'S ENEMY, THE FRENCH, I SEE! YOU HAVE COME TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THE SECURITY LEAK?

MY ORDERS WERE TO DISCOVER AND DISPATCH THE TRAITOR --IF POSSIBLE... BUT MY PRIMARY MISSION MEIN HERR--

--IS TO KILL YOU!

WHUMP!

BARON RHINEHART DOES NOT EVEN SEE THE MASTER-SPY STRIKE--

--UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE...

INTERESTING! THE BARON MUST HAVE JUST RECEIVED THESE SECRET PLANS FROM THE FRENCH WAR DEPARTMENT...

MADRE DE DIOS...OF COURSE!

PARIS, FRANCE. JANUARY 12, 1870:

THE STREETS OF PARIS ARE ALL BUT DESERTED THIS WINTER'S EVE ...SAVE FOR THESE TWO MEN...

BUENOS DIAZ, SEÑOR BLEU.

GREETINGS, MONSIEUR ROSA! I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR SUCCESS!

THEN YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE UN-COVERED YOUR TRAITOR--YOU!

YOU TOLD ME I WAS THE ONLY AGENT SENT INTO CASTLE RHINEHART BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT... BUT THERE WERE OTHERS!

WHY DID YOU WANT THE BARON DEAD, SEÑOR? HE WAS YOUR CONTACT WITH THE GERMANS!

H-HE WAS GOING TO BETRAY ME, ROSA-- REVEAL MY TREASON TO MY GOVERNMENT...

I-I HAD TO STOP HIM BEFORE I WAS RUINED ...HUH!?

IT HAS HAPPENED, MONSIEUR BLEU... IT IS OVER FOR YOU!

TAKE THIS, MON AMI. IT WILL MAKE MATTERS... SIMPLER.

THE MAN CALLED ROSA TURNS AT THOSE WORDS, FOR HE KNOWS WHAT IS TO HAPPEN NOW--

--AND NOTHING IS LEFT TO BE SAID...

BANG!

The End.

EXTRA DAILY PLANET™ EXTRA

VOLUME 79 ISSUE 14 WEEK OF APRIL 9, 1979 BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

WAR "GAME"!

SGT. ROCK STALKED BY NAZI KILLER!

(World War II)—Trapped in a French forest with an insane Nazi fighter pilot, Sgt. Rock finds himself the prey in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse! Can the battle-scarred non-com outwit his fanatical foe? Or will Sgt. Rock wind up as a "G.I. Trophy" on his enemy's wall? Find out in this suspenseful battle thriller by Robert Kanigher and Frank Redondo in *SGT ROCK* #330.

Then turn back the battle clock to the bloodstained skies of World War I for a story of two star-crossed lovers, an innocent French girl and a handsome American pilot, and their ultimate "Rendezvous" with destiny.

Finally, a proud Prussian cavalryman and his noble "Warhorse" fight as one on the battlefield. United, they're the ultimate fighting machine—or are they?

Don't miss any of these tales of wartime battle action. *SGT. ROCK* #330 goes on sale the week of April 23rd.

Q: About how many letters do you get a week?—Steve Haynie. *A*: More than I can answer in one column, which is why it takes up to a year (yes, a year) for your questions to get into print. I do try to use every letter in the column, so keep watching if you've been wondering where yours is. (Steve's letter, by the way, is dated May 14, 1978.)

Q: What happens to your subscription if the magazine is discontinued?—Daniel Billings. *A*: It is transferred to another magazine.

Q: Who in the *Justice League* doesn't have two identities?—Nelson Goris. *A*: Though *Aquaman* is also Arthur Curry and *Red Tornado* is John Smith, neither seems to be active in plain clothes. *Elongated Man's* Ralph Dibny identity is known to the world, *Zatanna* has no alter ego, and the *Phantom Stranger* is a mystery to everybody.

Q: Will we ever see *Rose and the Thorn* again?—Phil Matrale. *A*: Look no further than *SUPERMAN* #336.

ASSASSINS PLOT DEATH OF LEGION!

(30th Century)—The *Legion of Super-Heroes* accused of mass murder!? That's what happens in the latest issue of *SUPERBOY AND THE LEGION* when the galaxy's mightiest teens are blamed for the annihilation of an entire solar system and *billions* of innocent victims.

And determined to avenge the death of their home worlds are Lazon, The Silver Slasher, Titania, Neutrax, Blok, and Mist Master—*The League of Super-Assassins*! Don't miss this star-shattering clash between two of the most powerful forces of the 30th Century by Gerry Conway, Joe Staton, and Dave Hunt in *SUPERBOY AND THE LEGION* #253, on sale the week of April 23rd.

Q: How many people work in the *DC* offices at 75 Rockefeller Plaza?—Jeffrey E. Grinley. *A*: About 25; our writers, artists, letterers and colorists are freelancers who work at home.

Q: What comics did Joe Kubert write?—David Skea. *A*: Some of the *Tarzan* adventures, *Tor*, and he had a hand in numerous other stories he has drawn and edited.

Q: Pete Morisisi once did a story for *DARK MANSION* #11 and I really liked his style. Any chance he'll be back at *DC*?—Edward Coyle. *A*: Not in the near future.

Q: Does Green Lantern's ring ever run out of power?—Vivek Dehejia. *A*: It will after 24 hours if he doesn't recharge it.

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF APRIL 23rd

HOUSE OF MYSTERY #270—Learn where a hobby can lead in "The Collector" by J.M. DeMatteis, Jim Sherman and Joe Rubinstein; pose for "A Model Murder" with Scott Edelman and Tenny Henson; and attend a "Black Mass" with Wyatt Gwyon, Jerry Bingham and Billy Wray.

SUPERMAN #337—It's the Man of Steel's busiest day as he faces "Too Many Crooks" (including *Terra-Man, Brainiac, the Toyman, Bizarro* and *Metallo*) by Len Wein, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte.

WARLORD #23—Mike Grell and Vince Colletta provide an encounter between Travis Morgan and the "Children of Ba'al".

WONDER WOMAN #257—The "Case of the Impossible Crimes" puzzles the Amazing Amazon in this Paul Levitz/Paul Kupperberg/Jose Delbo/Joe Giella collaboration.

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

ADVENTURE COMICS #464 / BATMAN #313 / DC COMICS PRESENTS #11 (*Superman* and *Hawkman*) */ THE FLASH #275 / GHOSTS #78 / JONAH HEX #26 / JUSTICE LEAGUE #168 / MEN OF WAR #18 / SUPERMAN FAMILY #196 / UNEXPECTED #192 / WEIRD WAR TALES #77 / WORLD OF KRYPTON #1*

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